



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

Bill Pribil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Wednesday February 24, 2010

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Search and Rescue

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Multi-Agency Response Rescues 3 Stranded Men on Mount Elden

Flagstaff, AZ- On Wednesday February 24, 2010 at about 2:30 a.m. three adult men were rescued from Mount Elden where they were stranded. At about 8:40 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23 the Coconino County Sheriff's office was advised of a call for help from three male hikers. Judging from the description provided, the Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Coordinator determined the men were on Mount Elden in the towers area and could not locate the trail to get down. Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue volunteers were flown to the top of Mt. Elden by Arizona Department of Public Safety Air Rescue helicopter. Rescuers walked down to the victims reaching them at approximately 2:30 a.m. Rescuers described the victims as having exposure and one male reported a sprained ankle and not feeling his feet. Rescuers provided nourishment and dry clothing and then hiked down the trail with the men. Some portions of the trail required rope rigging to assure safe passage. Guardian Ambulance was summoned but all three men refused medical treatment.

The hikers were not appropriately equipped or prepared for the terrain and weather conditions. Even though they had managed to build a small fire it was nearly extinguished by the time rescuers arrived.

The Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit reminds hikers to carry survival gear on every hike even if they only plan for a short day hike. Unexpected events can easily make a short day hike into an overnight survival situation. Ten essential items include:

1. Extra Food
2. Extra Water
3. Extra Clothing for the Conditions
4. Signaling Equipment (LED Headlamp, Signal Mirror)
5. Fire Starting Kit or Backpacking Stove
6. Shelter Materials (heavy duty space blanket/large leaf bags)
7. Navigation Equipment (Map, Compass, GPS)
8. First Aid Kit
9. Sun Protection (sunglasses, sunscreen, large brimmed hat)
10. Rain/Snow clothing (shell pants and jacket)

Always tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return so that if you don't return Search and Rescue can more efficiently begin a search. A cell phone is a good tool but may not always work in backcountry locations.

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